IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

- 21. (previously presented) A configuration for n consumers of electric energy, of which m consumers are supplied simultaneously with energy, wherein at any time m < n, and whereby a modular energy supply comprising k energy modules is provided, and whereby the sum of the power supplyable by the k energy modules is smaller than the power which would be necessary, if all n consumers simultaneously required electrical power, wherein a control is provided which connects as many energy modules to respective one of the m consumers so that this consumer receives the power required by said consumer.
- 22. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein that the consumers are sputter installations, with each cathode of a sputter installation having its own arc management.
- 23. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the electric energy is realized by DC current.
- 24. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the electric energy is realized by AC current.
- 25. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the electric energy is realized by pulsed DC current.
- 26. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 22, wherein each cathode is provided with its own adaptation network.
- 27. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 23, wherein each cathode is provided with its own adaptation network.

- 28. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 24, wherein each cathode is provided with its own adaptation network.
- 29. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the consumers are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes to which one pole reversal unit is assigned.
- 30. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 21, wherein the consumers are sputter installations with each installation including two cathodes, of which the one cathode is connected to a pole of an AC voltage and the other cathode to the other pole of this AC voltage.
- 31. (previously presented) The configuration as claimed in claim 22, wherein a pulse generator is assigned to each cathode.
- 32. (currently amended) The configuration of claim 21, wherein each of the k energy modules have the same <u>electrical</u> power.